

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

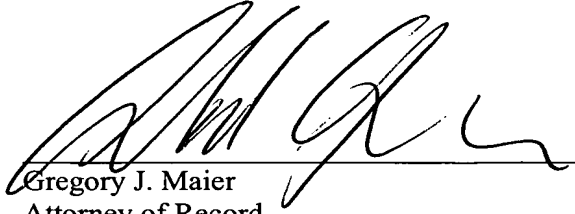
Claims 1-9, 21-30, 32-34, 39-47, 59-68 and 70-72 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 30, 33, 34, 39, 40, 68, 71 and 72 having been amended and Claims 10-20, 31, 35-38, 48-58, 69 and 73-76 be canceled by the present amendment.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the telephone interviews conducted with Examiner Mahoney on June 22 and August 5, 2004, during which allowable subject matters were indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, pursuant to the telephone interviews conducted on June 22 and August 5, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 30, 33, 34, 39, 40, 68, 71 and 72 be amended as presented above, and that Claims 10-20, 31, 35-38, 48-58, 69 and 73-76 be canceled without prejudice. Consequently, as discussed in the telephone interviews, Claims 1-9, 21-30, 33, 34, 39-47, 68, 71 and 72 are believed to be in condition for rejoinder and allowance together with Claims 32, 59-67 and 70 previously indicated as allowed. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually satisfactory claim language.

In light of the telephone interviews and in view of the amendments presented above,
no further issues are believed to be outstanding. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests
an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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